

York Substation park Development Community Meeting Summary Rainier Community Center November 8, 2004

Parks staff and the York Substation community met for a third and final community meeting on November 8, 2004. The community was applauded for its outstanding job of fundraising over \$50,000 in one year to augment the \$109,070 in Pro Parks funds to develop a new park. Parks also applauds the Miller Foundation, Safeco Foundation, Seattle Foundation, Department of Neighborhoods and King County for contributing to this small but vital community park project. York Substation is located at 3650 Renton Avenue S, one block south of the intersection of Renton Ave S and MLK Jr. Way S, in North Rainier Valley. The meeting began with Louise Hotaling reading a poem to commemorate the poetry of public spaces. Four topics were highlighted at the community meeting:

1. **Parks Naming process.** A name for the York Substation site will be selected by the Parks Naming Committee in 2005. Parks staff will advertise and solicit names from the community. The Park Naming Committee consists of the Park Superintendent, the President of the Board of Park Commissioners and the chair of the City Council Committee on Parks. The committee considers names that may reflect unique geography, history or cultural significance as well as the wishes of the community in which the park is located. Parks that are named after a person must be named after an individual who has been deceased at least three years and reflect an individual who has made significant contributions to parks or the local community.
2. **Review of project budget and grant sources.** Because of the hard work and dedication of York Substation community members, an additional \$52,000 can be invested at York Substation. The community will work with Seattle Parks Foundation to invest some of the grant money directly into park development as well as use some of the funds for education programs and special events. One unique event will be a scheduled goat clearing of invasive shrubs. The community is also excited to invite school groups to help with site preparation and planting.
 - **Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple Grant \$15,000** to improve the park and build community.
 - **Miller Foundation Grant \$15,000** for beautification efforts including ornamental shrub areas and natural plantings.
 - **Safeco Foundation \$15,000** for sitting rocks, furnishings and park development.
 - **Seattle Foundation Neighbor to Neighbor \$5,000** for landscape improvements and education.
 - **King County Small Change \$2,000** for improving habitat and education.
3. **Final site furnishing and vegetation review.** Parks staff shared a draft planting plan and discussed site furnishings. The emphasis will be on creating a colorful, low-maintenance landscape that is attractive to people and urban wildlife. Minimal furnishings will allow easy maintenance and a wide variety of park uses.
4. **Discussion of ways to stay involved in developing the York site.** The community-based York Park Task Force will continue to meet, do community and educational outreach, and hold regularly scheduled work parties. For information contact L.Hotaling (206) 723-3811 hotsdl@mindspring.com.

The Seattle Board of Parks Commissioners will be briefed on the park development on Jan 13, 2005 at 6 p.m. at 100 Dexter Ave. North. The park will be developed and open to the public in 2005. *This project helps to build strong families and healthy communities, one of Mayor Greg Nickels' priorities for a better Seattle.*

